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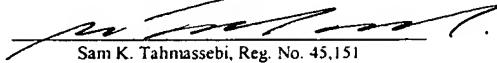
Applicant : Hui, et al.
Appl. No. : 10/090,039
Filed : February 27, 2002
For : **BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR
FOR STERILIZATION
PROCESSES WITH DOUBLE
BUFFER SYSTEM**
Examiner : Coe, S.D.

Group Art Unit 1651

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO BOX 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on

August 19, 2002

(Date)


Sam K. Tahmassebi, Reg. No. 45,151

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

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United States Patent and Trademark Office
PO BOX 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 21, 2002, please consider the following remarks.

Claims 21-26 are pending before the Examiner. Applicants respond below to rejections and objections raised by the Examiner in the Office Action of October 2, 2001.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being obvious over Barney et al. (USP 4,906,573). The Examiner alleges that Barney et al. teaches a culture medium that contains a nutrient medium and an acetate buffer and a phosphate buffer. The Examiner concedes that Barney et al. does not teach adding a pH indicator dye to the culture medium. The Examiner further alleges that adding the pH indicator is within the skill of the ordinary artisan.